

REMARKS

Summary

Figures 8 and 9, the Abstract, pages 14, 15, 23, 26, and 27 of the specification, and Claims 11, 23, and 24 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto. In addition, the application has been further amended to improve its form for reasons unrelated to patentability. Therefore, the application is now in condition for allowance.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-28 are allowed in this application, with Claims 1, 9, and 22 being independent. Claims 11, 23, and 24 have been amended to overcome formal objections thereto. In addition, Claims 1-28 have been amended to improve their form for reasons unrelated to patentability.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objects to the drawings because they do not include reference characters "55b" discussed in the specification. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicants have deleted these reference characters from page 24, line 1 of the specification, thereby obviating the objection.

In addition, the Examiner objects to Figures 8 and 9 because they include reference characters “3k3” and “S”, respectively, that are not discussed in the specification. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have amended Figures 8 and 9 to delete these reference characters from these figures, thereby obviating the objections. Corrected formal drawings of these figures are also attached.

Additional Drawing Corrections

Applicants have also amended Figure 1 to change the uppermost occurrence of “54a” to --54d--, to correct a typographical error. In addition, Applicants have amended Figure 2 to change “1c” to --1C--, to correct a typographical error. Further, Applicants have amended Figure 5 to delete “4Y, 4M, 4C, and 4K”, because these reference characters are not discussed in the specification. Corrected formal drawings of these figures are also attached.

Specification Objections

The Examiner objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure for minor informalities therein. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicants have amended the Abstract to address the points raised by the Examiner.

In addition, the Examiner objects to the specification for minor informalities on pages 14, 15, 23, 26, and 27 thereof and suggests specific amendments to overcome the objections. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner, thereby obviating the objections.

Additional Specification Amendments

In addition, Applicants have amended the specification for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve its form and to correct minor and typographical errors therein. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

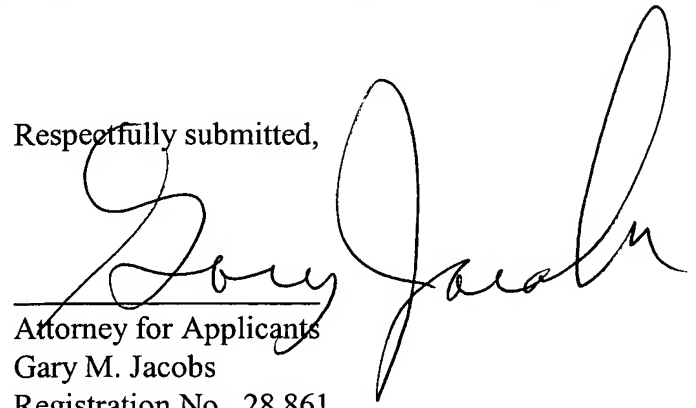
The Examiner objects to Claims 11, 23, and 24 for minor informalities therein and suggests specific amendments to overcome the objections. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have amended these claims to adopt the Examiner's suggestions, thereby obviating the objections. In addition, Applicants have further amended Claims 1-28 for reasons unrelated to patentability to improve their form.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings as follows and as shown in the attached corrected formal drawings thereof:

In Fig. 1:

Please change the uppermost occurrence of reference characters “54a” to --54d--.

In Figure 2:

Please change reference characters “1c” to --1C--.

In Figure 5:

Please delete “4Y, 4M, 4C, and 4K” and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 8:

Please delete reference characters “3k3” and the lead line therefrom.

In Figure 9:

Please delete reference letter “S”.